

a monthly publication of the  
Tennessee Valley Authority

# Inside TVA

Volume 31, Issue 8  
August 2011

## Go Out AND PLAY!

BROWNS FERRY MAINTENANCE  
SPECIALIST TONY HIPPS — LIKE SO  
MANY TVA EMPLOYEES AND THEIR  
FAMILIES — ENJOYS THE OUTDOORS  
AT TVA'S RECREATION AREAS.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

TVA is an equal-opportunity and affirmative-action employer. TVA also ensures that the benefits of programs receiving TVA financial assistance are available to all eligible persons, regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability or age.

Inside TVA will be made available in alternate format, such as Braille, large print or audiocassette, upon request. For information, call 865-632-4676 (TTY 865-632-2178).

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Comments and suggestions are welcome. Send them to Inside TVA, SP 2B-C, 1101 Market St., Chattanooga, TN 37402, or call 423-751-2540. Retirees with mailing-address changes should call Retirement Services at 865-632-2672.

Inside TVA is available on the TVA website at [www.tva.com/insidetva](http://www.tva.com/insidetva)



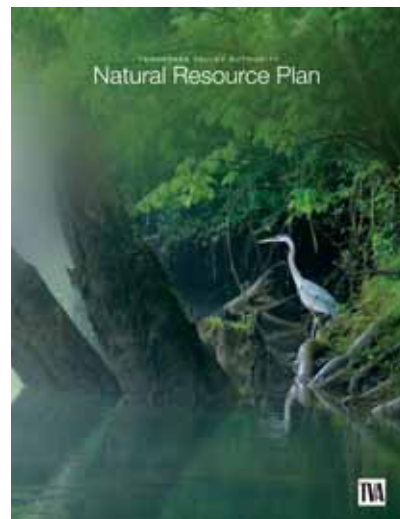
## HOT TOPICS

### New Plan Focuses on TVA's Natural Resource Stewardship Activities

The Natural Resource Plan – a 20-year roadmap for how TVA manages biological, cultural and water resources, recreation, reservoir lands planning and public engagement – was approved at the August TVA board meeting.

“The Natural Resource Plan creates a sound framework for balancing land use, human activity and conservation in order to achieve the greatest public benefit from our natural resources,” says TVA President & CEO Tom Kilgore in the plan.

The Natural Resource Plan and an accompanying Environmental Impact Statement are available online at [www.tva.com/nrp](http://www.tva.com/nrp).



### TVA Updates Telework Policy

In response to the Telework Enhancement Act signed by President Obama in 2010, TVA has updated its telework policy. The act is designed to improve government productivity and aid in recruiting and retaining valuable talent by better leveraging technology and providing a framework for the use of flexible work arrangements.

In line with one of the act's requirements, TVA has selected Human Resources Vice President Kathy Black to serve as telework managing officer. Human Resources Specialist Rebecca Hickerson is serving as telework coordinator, responsible for day-to-day aspects of telework. Anyone with questions can contact her at 423-751-2548 or [rhickerson@tva.gov](mailto:rhickerson@tva.gov).

Telework is a voluntary work alternative that may be appropriate for some employees and some positions. It is not an entitlement or TVA-wide benefit, and it does not change the terms and conditions of employment with TVA. TVA has the discretion to determine eligibility criteria for telework participation, and not all employees who are eligible may be approved to participate.

To understand terms and conditions of TVA's telework program and the roles and responsibilities of participating employees, employees can review TVA-SPP-11.9.2, “Telework Program,” which is available from the TVA Procedure Center.

Employees can also take an online telework training course by going to the Training & Development homepage, clicking on the “Course Descriptions” link in the menu on the left of the page and selecting “T” to find telework training courses for both employees and managers.

Eligible employees may not be able to participate if their 1) daily work activities require their physical presence on site (for example, direct handling of secure materials or face-to-face contact with co-workers and customers); 2) job performance is below adequate or unsatisfactory; or 3) conduct has resulted in disciplinary action within the last year.

## ON THE COVER

**COVER PHOTO** – Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Maintenance Specialist Tony Hipps slalom skis on Wilson Lake. Photo by Kenneth Trull, also a maintenance specialist at Browns Ferry.



# The Board Says 'Yes' to Bellefonte!

BY RAY GOLDEN

**At its Aug. 18 meeting, the TVA board of directors voted unanimously to authorize the completion of one nuclear unit at the Bellefonte site near Scottsboro, Ala.; the purchase of the Magnolia Combined Cycle Gas Plant in north Mississippi; and the addition of emissions controls at Gallatin and Allen fossil plants.**

"As we build Bellefonte we will integrate safety modifications from the extensive review of the lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear plants in Japan," said TVA President and CEO Tom Kilgore. "Making Bellefonte a productive asset with state-of-the-art equipment will add an additional supply of clean, base-load power to TVA's generating mix."

Bellefonte Unit 1 is about 55 percent complete and is expected to go into operation by 2020. It will generate 1,260 megawatts, enough to power about 750,000 homes. The \$4.9 billion project is expected to add about 2,800 construction jobs in the North Alabama area with about 650 permanent jobs once the plant is completed.

The air-quality controls, including flue gas desulfurization systems, or scrubbers, at Allen and Gallatin will take about six years to complete. Scrubbers can reduce sulfur-dioxide emissions by more than 95 percent.

The Magnolia facility is a three-unit, natural gas-fired electric generating plant near Ashland, Miss. With 909 megawatts of summer dependable capacity, the plant is a modern, fully permitted generating facility with a proven operational history, located in the TVA service area and already connected to the TVA electrical

grid. TVA has bought power since it began operation in 2003. The purchase price will be less than half the cost of new construction.

Magnolia will be TVA's third combined-cycle gas plant, joining the new 550-megawatt Lagoon Creek plant near Brownsville, Tenn., and the 810-megawatt Southaven (Miss.) plant, which is jointly owned with Seven States Power Corp. A fourth plant, the 880-megawatt John Sevier facility near Rogersville, Tenn., is under construction and scheduled to begin operation in June 2012. TVA also operates a fifth plant, the 813-megawatt Caledonia Combined Cycle Plant near Columbus, Miss., which is under a long-term lease agreement.

Combined-cycle gas plants use waste heat from the generation process to create steam to turn additional turbines to make additional electricity. They can provide intermediate generation to fill the gap between base-load and peak-power needs.

To meet the power requirements in the Tennessee Valley, make nuclear safety modifications as a result of Fukushima, bolster cyber security and continue investing in clean-air initiatives and energy efficiency, the board approved a budget with \$9.9 billion for operating expenses and \$3.8 billion in capital

expenditures for fiscal year 2012, which begins Oct. 1. This includes a 2-percent rate increase in TVA's average wholesale rate, which amounts to about \$1.60 a month on a 1,000 kilowatt-hour residential electric bill.



Tom Kilgore gives his President's Report to the board.

PHOTOS BY DAMIEN K. POWER





DAMIEN K. POWER

Watts Bar Human Resources Manager Kevin Kuykendall (right) serves up a loaded chili dog to Training Director Bill Thompson while Senior Secretary Dianne Haynes looks on.

## Hot Dog! Watts Bar Gets Lunch

On Aug. 5, the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant leadership team treated employees to a hot dog luncheon to recognize completing preparations for the site's Institute for Nuclear Power Operations evaluation and assessment. Every two years, a team of INPO and industry leaders evaluates the facility's performance in a number of areas, including safety, operational practices and human performance standards. This provides a fresh, independent look at the overall plant operation and identifies best practices and areas for improvement, both of which drive continuous improvement and move TVA closer to a culture of excellence.

## A Visit from the Undead

On July 20, prior to the TVA board decision to complete Bellefonte Nuclear Plant Unit 1, a group of 10 protesters dressed as zombies gathered at lunchtime outside TVA's offices in Chattanooga to express their concerns about nuclear power. The protest was peaceful and uneventful, as was the appearance of a zombie outside the Aug. 18 board meeting. See related story on page 3. To see a gallery of pictures, visit *Inside TVA* online.



PHOTOS BY ALLISON KWESELL

## The Graduates

Three years ago TVA entered into a partnership with Chattanooga State Community College to develop a nondestructive testing associate degree program that will prepare students to perform inspections and testing for multiple industries, including TVA's nuclear power plants.

Mike Turnbow, TVA general manager of Inspection & Testing Services, and members of the local chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers helped write the new course at the same time they taught the first students at the Chattanooga State campus after working hours. "It was quite a commitment," says Turnbow. "Our first two students, Bruce Tatum and Taft Barrott, graduated this year with their associate's degree, and TVA now has five

interns learning the work they would do with that degree once they get it."

Chattanooga State President Jim Catanzaro and American Society of Mechanical Engineers executives met with Chief Operating Officer Bill McCollum to discuss recent progress made in addressing workforce issues and ideas for the future.



In the photo above are (l-r) Tim McGhee, dean of Engineering & Technology at Chattanooga State Community College; graduates Bruce Tatum and Taft Barrott; Mike Turnbow, TVA general manager for Inspection & Testing Services; and Hershell Pruitt, senior manager of Inspection Services.



At the meeting to discuss ideas to address workforce issues are (l-r) Mike Turnbow, Chief Operating Officer Bill McCollum, Chattanooga State Community College President Jim Catanzaro and Ken Balkey, senior vice president of Standards and Certification for American Society of Mechanical Engineers.



Workers at Paradise Fossil Plant maneuver a 36,000-pound cyclone into position. The plant replaced all 23 cyclones in Unit 3 during the 128-day outage.

# An Outage To Remember

BY JESSICA STONE

## Paradise Fossil Plant Unit 3 successfully completes one of the largest planned outages in TVA history.

It's not every day that you need to cut a hole in the side of a boiler big enough for a Mack truck to fit through. But that's what they had for most of the 129 days of the Paradise Unit 3 outage.

"This was an impressive outage due to its overall complexity," says Outage Manager Mitch Cundiff. "None of us had ever worked an outage of this size, but we overcame a lot of challenges and worked well together to get it done."

Indeed, Paradise workers returned Unit 3 to service in June after what was arguably one of the largest planned outages in not only Paradise, but TVA fossil history, says Plant Manager Aaron Melda. And while the scope of the outage included critical tasks like cooling tower and precipitator repairs, the main event was replacing the unit's 23 cyclones.

### What's a cyclone?

A cyclone is a critical piece of equipment in which crushed coal mixes with air and is ignited before entering the boiler. Only one other plant in the TVA system has them — Allen Fossil Plant in Memphis. Cyclones are generally able to burn more diverse types of coal, which can reduce fuel costs.

"The payback for this outage will take less than two years," Melda says. "A day of lost generation at Paradise equals about \$1 million in lost revenue. And we did all this with no recordable

or lost-time injuries for plant employees."

### Focus on the environment

In addition to the cyclone furnace replacement, some of the work included repairing critical environmental equipment. Repairs were performed on the cooling towers with the aim of recovering at least 3 degrees of heat from their outlet temperature, sparing the plant costly thermal derates. Work was also performed to repair the unit's precipitator system, which removes fly ash from the flue gas. This will reduce visible pollution. And repairs made to the scrubber system will increase the efficiency of that system and removal of sulfur dioxide, or SO<sub>2</sub>.

So what's next for Paradise? "We're scheduling projects to improve our SO<sub>2</sub> removal and upgrade the existing scrubbers," says Melda.

Doing this, he adds, will bring Paradise, located in western Kentucky, closer to its goal of being one of the cleanest coal-fired plants in the nation in support of TVA's vision.



### Paradise Outage Fast Facts

**Calendar days:** Feb. 18 - June 26, 2011

**Hours worked:** About 1.3 million work hours in four months

**Outage cost:** \$102.5 million

A cyclone is 10 feet in diameter, 11 feet long and weighs 36,000 lbs.

If all the tubes replaced were laid end to end, they would stretch 42 miles, the driving distance between Paducah and Murray, Ky.



# Go Out AND PLAY!

BY JULIE TAYLOR

Each year more than a million people visit TVA's recreation areas to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life or to cope with the dog days of summer.

Bruce Schofield, TVA's vice president of Land & Shoreline Management, says these areas offer some of the nation's best boating, fishing, swimming, camping, hiking, bird watching, biking, picnicking and more. Most are free to visitors, unless they use a campsite or pavilion.

"TVA is committed to not only preserving the region's natural resources but providing the public with recreational opportunities," says James Adams, TVA's senior manager of Commercial & Public Recreation. "Our recreation areas have a lot to offer, especially for those seeking a no-cost or low-cost, scenic getaway."

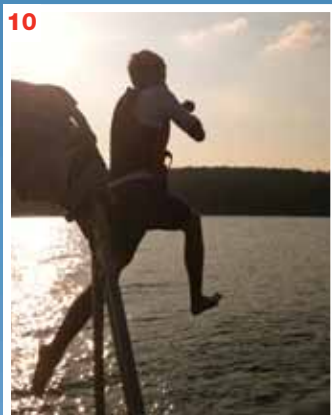
TVA manages about 293,000 acres of public lands and 11,000 miles of shoreline across 46 reservoirs in seven states. Of this, Recreation Strategy Specialist Jerry Fouse says TVA has allocated more than 21,000 acres for developed recreation, much of it near its dams and power plants.

"TVA manages 12 campgrounds and 63 day-use areas – such as boat ramps, picnic sites, pavilions, fishing piers and trails, as well as 81 stream-access sites with parking and pathways, steps or ramps to aid boat launches," Fouse says. "These areas receive heavy use from Memorial Day through Labor Day."

*Inside TVA* appreciates everyone who submitted pictures from TVA's recreation areas. For more employee pictures, visit the online issue of *Inside TVA*.







**1.** Couple at Foster Falls in Sequatchie, Tenn. **2.** John Moberly, maintenance coordinator at Marshall Combustion Turbine Plant, boating on Kentucky Lake. **3.** Greg (Odie) Preston, systems engineer at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, waterskiing on Wilson Lake near Florence, Ala. **4.** A canoe on the Ocoee River. **5.** Business Financial Analyst Jennifer Galloway's son, Addison, jetskiing at Concord Park. **6.** Father and daughter fishing on Boone Reservoir. **7.** Cathy Smith, a receptionist with TVA Police & Physical Security, and her daughter, Susanne, are among the whitewater rafters shown here on the Ocoee. **8.** Steve Mitchell, manager of Nuclear Transmission Services, waterskiing on Chickamauga Lake. **9.** Daniel Orr, start-up test engineer at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, backrolls while wakeboarding on the Hiwassee River. **10.** Employee Concerns Specialist David Breland's son, John, taking a flying leap into Guntersville Reservoir. **11.** Environment & Technology Program Manager Laura Duncan's husband, Jeff, and his friend Greg Laudeman mountain biking on the trails at Raccoon Mountain. **12.** Jeff Lovett, mechanical design technician in Muscle Shoals, jumping into the water below Upper Factory Falls on Bear Creek in Ala. **13.** Jason L. Smith, project control specialist, kayaking on the Tennessee River in downtown Chattanooga.



# my job rocks

BY JULIE TAYLOR

TVA employees are on the job 24/7, keeping the lights on, running the river system, managing TVA lands and supporting TVA's operations. In this column, you'll hear from TVA employees who can say, "My job rocks!"

**REBECCA HAYDEN** | MANAGER,  
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, EAST OPERATIONS



When it comes to puzzles, Rebecca Hayden is an expert. Her projects touch many TVA stakeholders who have differing wants and needs regarding the region's natural resources. She is responsible for finding common ground and putting the pieces together.

**TVA Service:** 10 1/2 years

**Degree:** Master's degree in environmental science, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; bachelor's degree in environmental engineering & technology (with minors in chemistry and equine science), Murray State University in Kentucky

**Family:** Engaged to Jeff Morgan. Family pets include dog, Squash, and cat, Snickers, which were discovered on separate TVA water-quality activities. Hayden and her horse, E.B., were Murray State's Racer 1 mascots at the school's football games.

## Why TVA?

I wanted to work for TVA because of the diversity and scope of the natural resource initiatives TVA must balance.

## Why does your job rock?

My job allows me to make a positive contribution to enhancing the Tennessee Valley's natural resources as I help implement TVA's natural resource strategy and work with stakeholders. This is fulfilling and makes each day unique.

Additionally, my organization personalizes TVA with the public. Often, stakeholders have never talked directly to a TVA employee even though they are interested in TVA's mission and projects. Our messaging and outreach influences their impressions of TVA.

## How are you helping TVA realize its vision?

My job focuses on responsibility and environmental stewardship.

## What's challenging about your job?

It can be challenging to strike a balance between competing uses on public land, especially when stakeholders' concerns are high. It takes time to learn the facts and find the best path forward.

## Where did you grow up?

My father was in the Army, so we lived many places. We were in Germany for a few years, and I graduated from high school in Kansas.

## First job?

I interned with the Aquatic Monitoring & Management Team in Chattanooga. I compiled the Vital Signs report for each reservoir. That time at the copy machine was invaluable in meeting TVA employees.

## Best career advice?

Pick up the phone. That statement underscores the value of interpersonal relationships.

## If you had an afternoon off, what would you do?

I would ride my horse or bicycle and then relax with a good book.

## Favorite book?

Since I don't think the IKEA catalog counts, my favorite book is *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho.



# Traveler, photographer, author, tap dancer

BY BROOKS CLARK

## Since retiring, Sharon Wright Cottrell has never stopped moving.

After 29 years at TVA, most of them in Information Services in Knoxville, Sharon Cottrell retired in 2003 as a data analyst.

Since then, she's spent about three months a year traveling the United States and Canada, visiting more than 90 state and national parks. "I plan 95 percent of my own trips and drive all the time except when I need to travel by boat," she says. "My favorite national park was the Channel Islands in California."

She took up photography to document her travels and started making slide shows and presenting them to various clubs in the Knoxville area. In the past eight years, she has won more than 30 photography contests, including the Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers, Knox Heritage Arts & Architecture Tour, Tennessee Valley Fair and Smoky Mountains Hiking Club photo contests.

She works out at Live Well at least three times a week, and she wrote books on the genealogy of her and her husband's families — *Family Genealogy of Sharon Anne Wright* and *Family Genealogy of Bradley Omar Cottrell*. "I used Family Tree Maker

software and have over 1,800 entries in the database, including research on more than 30 family surnames," she says. "I have scanned hundreds of photos into the software and included them in the books."

In 2010, Cottrell entered the Ms. Tennessee Senior America Pageant. "I wanted to broaden my personal development and challenge myself," she explains. In the talent competition she tap danced to Brooks and Dunn's *Boot Scootin' Boogie*. When the time came to present her "Philosophy of Life" on stage, it was no problem. "I believe it is important to improve ourselves by learning new things, to watch for new opportunities, to dream big by setting new goals, to work hard to achieve those goals and to never forget to take the time to enjoy the scenery and the people you meet along the way," she says.

"Every day I accomplish something and add to it. Accomplishing these goals motivates me to keep achieving." She won first runner-up in the pageant.

So what's the next goal? "I would love to be a motivational speaker inspiring others to make good use of their retirement years," says Cottrell. "I would also like to be an organizational consultant to help others be better organized." ■

## new retirees

### 36 Years

**James D. Norman**, Financial Services, Chattanooga

### 35 Years

**Terry L. Bradford**, COO, Chattanooga

**Steve A. Cox**, Strategy & External Relations, Muscle Shoals, Ala.

**Kendal R. Lennon**, Strategy & External Relations, Knoxville

### 33 Years

**Michael D. Pope**, People & Performance, Chattanooga

### 31 Years

**Douglas L. Johnson**, COO, Chattanooga

**Philip C. Scharre**, Strategy & External Relations, Nashville

**I. Kathleen Stringfield**, Strategy & External Relations, Knoxville

### 30 Years

**Larry R. McGinnis**, COO, Watts Bar Dam

### 29 Years

**Timothy J. Nalley**, COO, Starkville, Miss.

**For a list of other recent retirees, see the online *Inside TVA*.**





Your Health  
Counts

# Take a Shot!

**It's Immunization Time!**

BY BROOKS CLARK AND JENNIFER BECKETT

**As parents of three children under 10, Julie Griffin-Chamberlain, an assistant in Labor Relations, and Scot Chamberlain, an electrician with Power System Operations, are well acquainted with their pediatrician's recommended schedule of exams and immunizations.**

"Loren Ann, who just turned 4, will undergo a battery of immunizations in her next wellness exam," says Julie. "Last year she got a flu mist during her annual checkup."

Two years ago Brennan, 7, had the shots required for kindergarten. "He actually got them the week after school started," says Julie. "So many families call for appointments right before school that Knoxville Pediatric Associates couldn't get us in right away."

Last year Emory, 9, received the flu shot at a Walgreen's Minute Clinic. "It's important for him because he has asthma," says Julie.

## **Why are childhood vaccines so important?**

Although newborns are naturally immune to many diseases at birth, the immunity may last only a month to about a year. Young children do not have immunity against some vaccine-preventable diseases, such as whooping cough.

Non-vaccinated children may not be strong enough to fight diseases if exposed to a disease germ. Before vaccines, many children died from diseases that vaccines now prevent. Although

those germs still exist today, we don't see them as often since babies and young children are now protected by vaccines.

The immunization of children also helps to protect the health of our communities and schools. People with chronic illnesses will be less likely to be exposed to disease germs that can be passed around by unvaccinated children. Immunization also helps to slow down or even stop disease outbreaks.

**Reminder:** For eligible dependents under the age of 6, all TVA medical plans have a well-child benefit. Exams and immunizations are covered at 100 percent based on the frequency shown below:

Birth up to age 1:	5 exams, in addition to the initial physical exam in the hospital
Age 1 up to 2:	3 exams
Age 2 up to 3:	2 exams
Age 3 up to 6:	1 exam per year

## **Meningitis**

Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. It is usually caused by a viral or bacterial infection. Viral meningitis is generally less severe and clears up without specific treatment. Bacterial meningitis can be quite severe and may result in brain damage, hearing loss or learning disabilities. The vaccine for one type of bacterial meningitis, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, or Hib, is given to children as part of their routine immunizations. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention recommend that 11-12 year olds receive another shot, the *Meningococcal conjugate* vaccine, or MCV4. They also recommend a booster dose at 16 years. After outbreaks on several campuses a few years ago, many colleges require entering freshmen to get the MCV4 immunization.



# Applause!



The Tennessee Municipal Power Association awarded Murfreesboro, Tenn., Customer Service Manager **Walter Haynes** its Power of Excellence Award for his outstanding service to public power. Before joining TVA in May, Haynes had worked for Clarksville (Tenn.) Department of Electricity for 7½ years, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association for 11 years and the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation in Clarksville for 18 years.



## Excellence in Radiation Protection

**Pamela Theobald** was named Radiation Protection Professional for the first quarter of 2011 by her co-workers and peers for her excellent work in the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Dosimetry Department. Pictured with Theobald as she received this award are Radiation Protection Field Operations Manager **Bill Jasper** (left) and Radiation Protection Manager **Wayne Hooks**.



## "The Inventory" Wins First Place

**Inza Hagins-Dyer**, senior program manager for the Chief Operating Officer Non-Nuclear Employee Concerns Program, won first place in the annual short story contest sponsored by *the pulse*, Chattanooga's alternative weekly. Her story, "The Inventory," describes her feelings as she took inventory of her mother's home following her mother's murder. Hagins-Dyer and her family are starting The Hagins Foundation to raise awareness about crimes against senior citizens and provide resources to help ensure their safety. To read the story, go to <http://chattanoogaapulse.com/category/pulsefeatures/cover-story/> and select Cover Story - Second Annual Pulse Short Story Contest.

# WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEE

BY LAUREN BARBER

## COLBY RISNER

Engineering Technician, Paradise Fossil Plant



DAMIEN K. POWER

Colby Risner grew up in the tiny West Tennessee town of Collinwood, where as a boy his favorite pastime was fishing in TVA's Pickwick Reservoir. He would learn more about TVA later.

Says Risner, "When I realized just how many different plants TVA actually had and the service they provided for the Tennessee Valley, I said to myself I'd like to work for TVA one day."

That dream came true when Risner was recently hired as an engineering technician at Paradise Fossil Plant.

In his job, he monitors water chemistry, performs predictive-maintenance inspections and troubleshoots any problems that may arise with the units.

Risner came to TVA from the U.S. Air Force, where he served as a bioenvironmental engineering technician in Turkey and Italy. While in the service, he graduated from the online Columbia Southern

University with a bachelor's degree in occupational safety and health/fire science, and from the Community College of the Air Force with an associate's degree in bioenvironmental engineering.

"It wasn't until I worked for the government in the military that I realized there was more to a job than just a paycheck," Risner says.

When he was preparing to leave the Air Force, Risner saw a position on the TVA website. After hearing from friends in the military about the quality of TVA facilities and workplace, he applied for and got the job.

"I never realized how reliable the power was here until I traveled overseas and lost power on a weekly basis that would short circuit most of my appliances," Risner says. "I am proud to be working for TVA where I can use my skills and education from the Air Force and can contribute to the Valley."

For a list of employees hired in July, see the online edition of *Inside TVA*.



# InsideTVA

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## Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

On July 27 at Chattanooga's AT&T Field, TVA's Intern Networking Event featured peanuts, Cracker Jack and fellowship as the Jackson Generals defeated the Chattanooga Lookouts 7-5.



DAVID K. POWER